

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): A user device that can be connected through a network to a digital information distribution system including a database for storing digital information, an information distribution server for distributing the digital information in the database, and a storage server for storing the digital information thus distributed, comprising:

a communication unit for transmitting an order to the information distribution server and an input/output request to the storage server through the network,

to make the information distribution server attach duplicate-time limit information to the digital information and send the digital information with the duplicate-time limit information to a storage provided in the storage server and allocated exclusively for a user of the user device in accordance with the order, and further make the storage server hold the digital information with the duplicate-time limit information and input and output the digital information in accordance with the duplicate-time limit information on the basis of the input/output request.

Claim 12 (New): The user device according to Claim 11, wherein

when the user terminal transmits an output request included in the input/output request to the storage sever, the user terminal makes the storage server send the digital information only when the duplicate-time limit information indicates allowance of a copy to the user terminal.

Claim 13 (New): The user device according to Claim 11, wherein
the duplicate-time limit information is provided for limiting number of copies to the user
terminal.

Claim 14 (New): The user device according to Claim 13, wherein
the number of copies in the duplicate-time limit information decreases along with each
output of the digital information to the user device.

Claim 15 (New): The user device according to Claim 14, wherein
when the user terminal transmits an input request included in the input/output request and
the digital information to the storage sever, the user terminal makes the number of copies in the
duplicate-time limit information increase.